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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 May 199. from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

At a time when Lebanon is beginning to recover from the bloody events and the destructive wars which lasted more than 15 years, and while the Government of national reconciliation is sparing no effort to extend its legitimate authority throughout Lebanese territory - as the militias have just been disarmed and the army has been deployed in extensive areas of Lebanon - Israel is carrying out large-scale military manoeuvres in the eastern sector of the occupied Lebanese territory known as the "buffer zone", in conjunction with troops from the so-called "South Lebanon Army", created and used by Israel in the areas under its occupation.

Yesterday, Israel deployed more than 40 tanks, 4,000 soldiers and heavy artillery batteries (155 mm) in order to carry out these manoeuvres, confirming once again its determination to continue its policy of aggression against Lebanon and occupy part of Lebanese territory.

In the current circumstances, such Israeli operations constitute an unjustified provocation and a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon aimed at impeding the ongoing process of national salvation and

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thwarting the efforts by the Lebanese Government to implement the Taif Agreement on national reconciliation and to extend the authority of the State throughout the national territory. In particular, such operations aim at preventing the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

In drawing attention to the aggressive and repeated acts by Israel, the Lebanese Government reaffirms the need for the Secretariat and the international community to continue their efforts to induce Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and put an end to the totally abnormal situation prevailing in southern Lebanon, which threatens peace and stability in Lebanon and in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative